Number of convicted Communist prisoners in the jails.

* 80 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) the number of convicted prisoners undergoing sentence in the different jails in the State who are classified as Communists;

(b) whether they are treated as political prisoners in the matter of food, dress, interviews, periodicals, etc., and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" (a) There is no classification among convicted prisoners as ' Comunists ' under the rules About two hundred among convicted prisoners in the jails may be attributed to cases arising out of Communist activities involving crimes of violence to person and property and disposed of under the ordinary Criminal Law.

" (b) & (c) There is no classification as political prisoners but only according to rules provided for all prisoners in view of standards of living to which the prisoners were held to be accustomed."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, whether these persons who are called Communist prisoners, 200 of them, are being separated from the other prisoners, and, even though they are not yet considered as political prisoners, whether Government would give them special facilities as are being given to other political prisoners? " 11 a.m.

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, as a matter of fact, they are given special facilities and privileges because they were enjoying these while they were under-trial prisoners. That is why they are being separated and given special facilities like that."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know Sir, in how many enclosures these 200 Communist prisoners are lodged? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, a separate question may be put."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" May I know, Sir, what class of offences the Government consider as political? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" None of the cases arising under the Penal Code are considered as political."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" May I know, Sir, how many such prisoners died in jails since their incarceration and the reasons for their death? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, it was stated that these people were guilty of violence. Do the Government keep all the people found guilty of violence and murder separately or only a particular class of people who commit violent acts? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The prisoners are grouped according to the offences committed and accommodated in separate buildings. These people are given a separate building because they are enjoying more amenities than the others."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In view of the fact that there was a national movement in this country from 1926 onwards which was fighting for classification of political prisoners, and in view of the fact that several people gave up their lives in that fight, will this Government, which consists of members who are supposed to have taken part in the national movement, now consider the desirability of classifying certain prisoners as political prisoners? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, these are prisoners who have committed crimes in respect of life and property of persons in this State."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated that there is no separate classification. Are Government aware that even the ordinary facilities granted to ordinary criminals are denied to these prisoners on the plea that they are Communists? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is not a fact, Sir. I visited Salem jail, I visited Cannanore jail and I know that more amenities are given to them."

SRI T. N. VENKATASUBBA REDDI :—" Is it the policy of the Government that, where politicians are involved in crimes under the Indian Penal Code, they are to be given special facilities? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir. These persons were enjoying certain facilities which the Government do not consider taking away now."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, are the Government aware that these so-called prisoners, who are political prisoners and who have been separated from the other criminals, are not given even the facilities that are granted to the ordinary criminals? They are not even given slate and pencil; they are not allowed geography books and such other things. Representations were made to this effect to the Hon. Minister when he visited the jails, before he went to the jails and even after he returned from his visit."

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I had been to the places. I can assure the hon. Member that all facilities that are given to the other convicts plus some special facilities are afforded to these prisoners."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, what are the special facilities afforded to these people and whether these prisoners are ill-treated and naked searches are made twice or thrice a week? "

14th July 1952]

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, hon. Members are confounding two different things. When any prisoner tries to communicate with other prisoners, certain privileges are stopped, but ordinary facilities for reading and writing are not denied to any class of prisoners. But when the slates and pencils are used for inter-communication and infiltration, the prison authorities are entitled to interfere."

SRI A. K. SUBBIAH :—" The Hon. Minister was telling the House that some more amenities were given to the prisioners. Will he be pleased to state what the amenities are? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" If a separate question is put I will be able to furnish the information."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH :—" అయ్యా, ముఖ్య మంత్రిగారు మనకు జైలులో వున్నప్పుడు మనకు కాగితములను ఇవ్వని కారణంచేత మనము ముక్కలనే, మనగురించి ఇతరులకు తెలియజేసుకొనేందుకు, ఉపయోగించెడివారమనే విషయము జ్ఞాపకమున్నదా ?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" బాగా జ్ఞాపకమున్నది."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, in view of this specific allegation that is made by the Hon. Chief Minister, is he prepared to conduct an open enquiry, with a committee of this House, into these allegations? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" No, Sir; but the Government are enquiring into all the representations that have been made but no committee of the House can be constituted for enquiring into the Jail and Prison affairs which are difficult even as they are."

Commissioner for Prohibition.

* 81 Q.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) the name of the officer who is the Commissioner for Prohibition in the State of Madras now;

(b) how long has the present incumbent been in the place; and

(c) whether he has a permit for the consumption and storage for personal consumption of foreign liquor?

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" (a) Sri V. N. Kudva, I.C.S.

" (b) From 15th August 1947 onwards (except for 4 months in 1949 when he was on leave).

" (c) The answer is in the negative. It is unfortunate that this sort of question should have been put without proper enquiry since, to a certain extent, it brings into disrepute a class of Officers."